

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION--WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) STATE 106441; (B) GENEVA 3387

1. WE MET PRIVATELY WITH DUBININ AGAIN MAY 14 FOR FURTHER LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF JOURNALISTS TEXT. AS INSTRUCTED BY REF (A) WE PRESSED DUBININ TO PROPOSE A FORMULATION ON EARLY RESPONSE, WITHOUT COMMENTING ON HIS SUGGESTION ON "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL". DUBININ WAS A BIT TESTY BUT EVENTUALLY THOUGHT HE MIGHT CONSIDER A PHRASE LIKE "... FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING AUTHORIZATION FOR TRAVEL ..."

2. DUBININ ALSO MADE NEW SUGGESTION TO COVER IDEA OF "WIDER TRAVEL", UNDER WHICH PHRASE MIGHT READ "GRADUALLY IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL". WE SAID WE THOUGHT THIS WAS A QUALITATIVE IDEA LIKE "BETTER OPPORTUNITIES", WHEREAS WE WERE INTERESTED IN QUANTITATIVE NOTION AS EXPRESSED IN PHRASE LIKE "WIDER" OR "GREATER" OPPORTUNITIES. DUBININ DID NOT EVEN BLINK BUT WE THINK HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE OFFERING ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE.

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3. DUBININ THEN ASKED TO REVIEW AGAIN REMAINING PARAS

OF JOURNALISTS TEXT, WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT COME UP AT GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN VIENNA. WE REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO SEE, IN ADDITION TO POINTS ALREADY INCLUDED IN SWISS PAPER WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS, PHRASEOLOGY COVERING (1) INDIVIDUALS AS SOURCES OF NEWS; (2) TECHNICAL STAFF; AND (3) DIRECT LANGUAGE TO EXCLUDE EXPULSION FOR LEGITIMATE PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. DUBININ REPEATED, AS HE HAS DONE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THAT ALL OF THESE POINTS WERE UNACCEPTABLE. NEVERTHELESS, HE WENT INTO SUBJECT OF EXPULSION IN SOME DETAIL.X

4. AFTER LENGTHY GIVE-AND TAKE ON MERITS OF THIS IDEA, DUBININ HINTED THAT A SENTENCE ON THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR SOVIETS TO ACCEPT IF IT WERE FOLLOWED BY A PHRASE INDICATING LIMITATIONS ON GENERAL RULE OF NO EXPULSION. SUCH A PHRASE MIGHT, IN SOVIET VIEW, READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: JOURNALISTS MAY NOT BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY ARE ACCREDITED FOR THE LEGITIMATE PURSUIT OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY, SUBJECT TO STRICT OBSERVANCE OF AND RESPECT FOR THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED. UNQUOTE. SOVIETS DID NOT MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON THIS, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS SAID THAT WE THOUGHT THIS IDEA WAS IMPLICIT IN THE TEXT, AND WAS ALSO IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR OVERALL APPROACH TO THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, WE SAID WE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT AND WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT ON IT.

4. WE BELIEVE SOVIET IDEA FOR REFERENCE TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS ALREADY COVERED BY REFERENCE TO CSCE PRINCIPLES IN BASKET III PREAMBLE. NEVERTHELESS, IF ADDITION OF SUCH A PHRASE WOULD RENDER SENTENCE ON EXPULSION ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTH INCLUDING IT. WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS POINT.DALE

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